



REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 7, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Applicants are grateful for the indication that claims 2-14, 16, 17, 19-29, and 31-39 are allowable over the prior art. Claims 2-14, 16, 17, 19-29 and 31-39 are pending.

The Office Action objected to claims 36-39 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 21, 31, 33, and 34 respectively. This objection is respectfully traversed.

MPEP 706.03(k) states that court decisions have confirmed an applicant's right to restate (by plural claiming), the invention in a reasonable number of ways. A mere difference in scope between the claims has been held to be enough.

In the present application, claims 36-39 recite elements written in means-plus-function terminology of claims 21, 31, 33 and 34. Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. 112 sixth paragraph, these claims (36-39) have a different scope than claims 21, 31, 33 and 34 and are not substantial duplicates thereof.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims 36-39 are not substantial duplicates of claims 21, 31, 33 and 34, and are not so close in content that they both cover the same thing. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 36-39 is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 2-14, 16, 17, 19-29, and 31-39 are condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 2-14, 16, 17, 19-29, and 31-39 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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